

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

How to Obtain Proof
OF
Service of an Ancestor

BEING THE

REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN GENERAL, S. A. R.

READ AT THE

ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE SOCIETY,

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HISTORIAN GENERAL'S REPORT.

Mr. President General and Gentlemen:

Desirous of performing some task, which will be of service to the Society, I have prepared a statement of how to obtain, and the sources to which application should be made for, proof of the service of one's ancestor or ancestors in the American Revolution. A large number of persons who are seeking admission to Societies of the Sons (and Daughters) of the American Revolution have been completely in the dark how to proceed.

I am indebted to Secretary General Cresap for the following tabular statements of the number who served in the Revolution, which will indicate in a measure the large number of people now living who must be eligible to membership in our Societies:

ESTIMATED POPULATION (WHITES), 1775.

(ACCEPTED BY THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU).

COLONIES.	POPULATION (WHITES).
New Hampshire.....	102,000
Massachusetts.....	352,000
Rhode Island.....	58,000
Connecticut.....	262,000
Georgia.....	27,000
New York.....	238,000
New Jersey... ..	138,000
Pennsylvania.....	341,000
Delaware.....	37,000
Maryland.....	174,000
Virginia.....	300,000
North Carolina.....	181,000
South Carolina.....	93,000
Total.....	2,303,000

SOLDIERS OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

	1775.	1776.	1777.	1778.	1779.	1780.	1781.	1782.	1783.	
New Hampshire.....	2,824	3,019	1,172	1,283	1,004	1,017	700	744	733	12,496
Massachusetts.....	16,444	13,372	7,816	7,010	6,287	4,453	3,732	4,423	4,370	67,907
Rhode Island.....	1,193	798	548	630	507	915	464	481	372	5,908
Connecticut.....	4,507	6,390	4,563	4,010	3,544	3,133	2,420	1,732	1,740	32,039
Delaware.....	.....	609	299	349	317	325	89	164	235	2,387
*Maryland.....	300	637	2,030	3,307	2,849	2,065	770	1,280	974	14,212
*Virginia.....	200	6,181	5,744	5,230	3,973	2,486	1,225	1,204	629	26,872
North Carolina.....	.....	1,134	1,281	1,287	1,214	.....	545	1,105	697	7,263
South Carolina.....	.....	2,069	1,650	1,650	.....	.....	.....	.....	139	5,508
Georgia.....	.....	351	1,423	673	87	.....	.....	.....	145	2,679
New York.....	2,075	3,629	1,903	2,194	2,256	2,179	1,178	1,198	1,169	17,781
Pennsylvania.....	400	5,519	4,983	3,684	3,476	3,337	1,346	1,265	1,598	25,608
New Jersey.....	.....	3,193	1,408	1,586	1,276	1,105	823	660	676	10,727
	27,943	46,901	34,820	32,893	26,790	21,015	13,292	14,256	13,477	231,387

* Battalion of Riflemen, incorporated in the Continental Army.

MILITIA, 1775-1783.

	1775.	1776.	1777.	1778.	1779.	1780.	1781.	1782.	1783.	
New Hampshire										982
Massachusetts.....		4,000			222	760				10,453
Rhode Island.....		1,102			1,451	3,436	1,566			1,858
Connecticut		5,737			756					7,792
Delaware		145				554	1,501			376
Maryland		2,592				231				3,929
Virginia							1,337			2,894
North Carolina							2,894			2,706
South Carolina.....					2,706					
Georgia										
New York.....		1,715								2,383
Pennsylvania.....		4,876				668				4,876
New Jersey		5,893				162				6,055
		27,060			5,135	5,811	7,298			44,304

ADDITIONAL MILITIA EMPLOYED, 1775-1783.
CONJECTURED BY WAR DEPARTMENT, 1783.

	1775.	1776.	1777.	1778.	1779.	1780.	1781.	1782.	1783.
New Hampshire.....	.....	333	367	83	.....	.....	.....	.....	783
Massachusetts.....	.....	1,000	333	750	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,083
Rhode Island.....	.....	.....	750	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	750
Connecticut.....	.....	333	333	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	666
Delaware.....	.....	.....	167	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	167
Maryland.....	.....	.....	667	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	667
Virginia.....	1,787	.....	667	933	1,600	2,250	2,000	1,000	10,237
North Carolina.....	500	2,000	.....	.....	667	3,000	3,000	.....	9,167
South Carolina.....	2,750	2,000	233	500	3,375	2,334	3,000	667	14,859
Georgia.....	750	1,950	750	2,200	750	750	750	750	8,650
New York.....	.....	917	1,250	.....	375	333	.....	.....	2,875
Pennsylvania.....	.....	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500
New Jersey.....	.....	.....	250	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,250
	5,787	8,533	6,267	5,466	6,767	8,667	8,750	2,417	52,654

NOTE.—These conjectures are reduced to *per annum* basis; that is, if a State had 1,000 Militiamen employed for 6 months in a year ($\frac{1}{2}$ year), that State is credited with 500 for the whole year. If 1,000 for three months ($\frac{1}{4}$ year), credit is given for 250 for *that* year.

STATE QUOTAS, SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

1775-1783.

	CONTI- NENTALS.	MILITIA.	ADDI- TIONAL MILITIA.	TOTAL TROOPS.	PERCENTAGE OF THE WHOLE.	PERCENTAGE OF WHOLE POPULATION.	PERCENTAGE OF SHARE.
New Hampshire.....	12,496	982	783	14,261	4.3	4.1	105
Massachusetts.....	67,907	10,453	2,083	80,443	24.5	15.3	160
Rhode Island... ..	5,908	1,858	750	8,516	2.6	2.5	104
Connecticut... ..	32,039	7,792	666	40,497	12.3	11.4	108
Delaware.....	2,387	376	167	2,930	1.0	1.6	56
Maryland... ..	14,212	3,929	667	18,808	5.8	7.5	77
Virginia.....	26,872	2,894	10,237	40,003	12.1	13.3	91
North Carolina.....	7,263	2,706	9,167	19,136	5.8	7.9	73
South Carolina... ..	5,508	.....	14,859	20,367	6.2	4.1	151
Georgia.....	2,679	.....	8,650	11,329	3.5	1.2	291
New York.....	17,781	2,383	2,875	23,039	7.0	10.3	68
Pennsylvania.	25,608	4,876	500	30,984	9.4	14.8	64
New Jersey.....	10,727	6,055	1,250	18,032	5.5	6.0	92
Totals.....	231,387	44,304	52,654	328,345	100.	100.	

NOTES:—The figures in Tables referring to Troops were obtained from War Department Reports, and those to population from the Census Bureau.

The "Additional Militia," or short time Troops, have been placed upon equal footing upon the basis of time employed—as explained in Table 4.

In the Summary, the last column shows the ratio of what each State *did* furnish to what she *should* have furnished (considering population), but it is hardly to be interpreted as the exponent of patriotism, for many reasons. It is also to be noted that the troops of Georgia were largely drawn from the Carolinas and some from Maryland and Virginia.

Undoubtedly, the first step is to trace one's lineage back to the Revolution by as many lines of descent as possible. Every man must make this search in his own way, guided by family tradition. He must consult family Bibles, the memory of relatives, old letters, and the records of the towns and counties in which his ancestors lived. Considerable correspondence is often necessary to obtain missing links of lineage; but the task is a delightful one; and he who once begins the fascinating search for an ancestor, will never stop until he finds either that he actually has one or has not. County and town clerks and surrogates are reasonably prompt and generally most courteous in answering inquiries sent to them. And if a prolonged search of local records is necessary in any case, they are generally willing to name some person, either in their employ or in the same town, who, for a very moderate compensation, will make the search.

After the names and residences of the men of the family who lived in the time of the Revolution have been ascertained, the next step is to ascertain if they served. It is exactly at this point that the greatest caution is necessary. There may have been two men in the same town of the same name, one of whom served and the other did not. Family traditions and family records are in this case always important and useful guides.

The sources to which application must be made for proof of service are, naturally, to be found chiefly in the original thirteen States, or in the District of Columbia. I will enumerate the States in geographical order:

MAINE.

Maine has no official records, documentary or otherwise, of the service of her citizens in the American Revolution. Maine was a province of Massachusetts until 1820, and proof of service of her citizens and of the numerous soldiers who settled within her borders after the peace, must be sought for, as a rule, in Massachusetts and other States.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The records of service of New Hampshire men are substantially complete. They have been printed in four volumes, of the "New Hampshire State Papers," namely: Vol. 14, printed in 1885; vol. 15, printed in 1886; vol. 16, in 1887; and vol. 17, printed in 1889. Names, commands, rank and dates of enlistment and discharge are given with great fullness. Isaac W. Hammond, the compiler, procured the rolls and data upon which these books are based, from every available source within and without the State. It is believed that there are no documents, in the possession of private citizens in the State, which have not been carefully examined and drawn from in the preparation of these four books. There may be some at Washington. Descendants of New Hampshire, wishing for proof of the service of their ancestors, should write to the Adjutant General of the State, Concord, N. H., who will promptly direct a search to be made. The labor of examination will be performed after regular office hours, by a clerk, and he must be paid for his time. Probably \$2 or \$3 will secure the search, and the Adjutant General will send a certificate without further charge.

A few copies of the New Hampshire books are held for sale by Otis H. Hammond, Concord, N. H.

A very large number of Revolution soldiers are alluded to in the numerous Town Histories of New Hampshire, which have been published during recent years. Copies of these books are in possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society, 212-214 North Main St., Concord, N. H., and there may possibly be some names in these volumes, not referred to in the State books, or some additional particulars. The Recording Secretary, John C. Ordway, will answer any questions which are sent him to the extent of his ability.

Mention may be made of the fact that there is in existence a published History of the First New Hampshire Regiment in the War of the Revolution.

Various rolls of New Hampshire militia regiments exist at Washington, in the War Department. Most of them have been consulted in the preparation of the State book.

VERMONT.

Vermont sent about 5,000 men into the Revolution armies; and the names of most of them are in the possession of the Adjutant General of the State, at Montpelier. The records have been compiled from pay rolls, vouchers, pension lists, and other similar documents. Gen. Theodore S. Peck, Adjutant General of

the State, an active member of the Vermont Society, Sons of the American Revolution, has taken great interest in making these records accessible; and there is now in possession of the State an index of all the names contained in the various papers. A fee of from \$1 to \$3 is charged, according to the time consumed, for making a search of the records. Applications should be addressed to the Adjutant General of Vermont, at Montpelier. The search will be made by Mrs. James S. Peck, who has been authorized to supply information of this class, and who has devoted much time and labor to a study of the records. Gen. Peck will send a certificate of service.

MASSACHUSETTS.

While Massachusetts supplied more men than any other State for the American Revolution, she has never printed a roll of their names. In the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth at Boston, however, there are 60 volumes of original muster rolls of men who were in the militia service, and 21 volumes of records of service in the Continental Army. Upon payment of a fee of \$3, the Secretary of the Commonwealth will cause a search to be made for the name of a soldier or sailor of the Revolution and will supply a certified copy of the record of service. As these rolls have not yet been completely indexed, the Secretary requests that "name of town where enlisted" shall be supplied, if possible, and any other information which will help to identify the soldier.

It is the belief of the Hon. William M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, from whom these facts are obtained, that the names of very nearly all of the soldiers, who served from Massachusetts, appear somewhere in the manuscript volumes in his care. A complete card index is now in preparation.

But there are other sources of information. The American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., has collected a great variety of records of the Revolution. Muster rolls, army orders, and military papers of various dates from 1745 to 1787, have come into its hands in large numbers, together with a most interesting collection of orderly books. In 1881, these documents were all loaned to the State authorities of Massachusetts and are now in the possession of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Society retains, however, a large mass of family and biographical records, and a library of 100,000 books, which have been largely resorted to for genealogical researches, and will continue to be. The Librarian of the Society, Edmund M. Barton, has a trained assistant, who will examine the material on hand, and search for Revolution ancestry, at a charge of 30 cents per hour. Some of the orderly books, collected by this Society, relate to the troops of other States.

Another valuable collection of muster rolls, orderly books, account books, personal diaries, town papers, official letters, etc., of the period of the Revolution, is in the possession of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, 18 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass. These records have been accumulating for the last 45 years. The work of arranging them has been recently begun. There are more than 2,000 separate lots in manuscript. One lot, the Gen. Henry Knox papers, contains about 12,000 letters, many of them from Washington. A collection of John Hancock's papers equals that of Knox's in number. There are several thousands of Paymaster General Ebenezer Hancock's papers. Walter K. Watkins, the Assistant Librarian, a member of the Massachusetts S. A. R., is well qualified,

by his familiarity with the sources of information both in the Society's possession and at the State House, to make searches for ancestry. He charges a fee of \$2 or \$3 for so doing. Necessary correspondence with town and county clerks may require an extra charge.

Additional records have been collected by the Public Library, Woburn, Mass., to which the Rumford Historical Association of the same city has contributed. They include manuscript rolls and documents, besides several hundred receipted town orders, signed by men who performed active military service. These are indexed, and the Librarian, William K. Cutter, will render such aid to seekers after information (descendants of that town) as lies in his power.

Massachusetts also abounds in Town and County Histories. These books are found in the libraries of the Historical Societies, and contain many forgotten facts of great interest about the services of particular men.

The Dedham Historical Society, Dedham, Mass., can supply the names of 207 men who served from that town.

RHODE ISLAND.

The first of the States to publish a book was Rhode Island. Benjamin Cowell, who had been engaged for many years in prosecuting claims, growing out of the American Revolution and who had collected a large quantity of pay and depreciation accounts, muster rolls, and so on, printed a book, in 1850, entitled "The Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island." The work contains more than 3,000 names and a large amount of historical information. The names are not indexed, and the record is not complete, but the book is, nevertheless, exceedingly valuable.

Other sources of information are the "Rhode Island Colonial Records," and S. G. Arnold's History of Rhode Island.

Application for information may also be made to Arno Perry, Librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, at Providence, R. I. They will be referred to a competent person, who will make a search for a small compensation.

The Newport, R. I., Historical Society has an excellent library of State, County and Town Histories, and of Town and Church records, to which reference can also be had.

CONNECTICUT.

The Connecticut book is probably well known to all. It is a large, handsome, quarto volume, well bound, and is entitled "Record of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution." This work, authorized by a resolution introduced into the Legislature by Hon. Wm. Wallace Lee of Meriden, a member of the Connecticut S. A. R., was published in 1889, after many years of diligent research. The editor, Prof. Henry P. Johnson, is connected with the College of the City of New York, 17 Lexington Avenue, New York. There are 27,823 names in this admirable book, and the company, regiment, residence and length of service are given in nearly every case. The names are well indexed, and in every respect this book is a great publication. The cost to purchasers is \$5 a copy. Application for it should be made to the Adjutant General of Connecticut, Hartford, Conn.

It is not too much to say that every Society in the States west of Connecticut should certainly have one copy. An idea may be gained of what was involved in the publication of the Connecticut book when I say that the clerical labor at Washington alone cost over \$20,000. While the Connecticut book is a model for works of this class, it is now known to be somewhat incomplete. Several thousand names are known to have been omitted. They could not be secured in time for publication. Possibly some of them never will be. A supplementary volume will probably be issued, in time, when sufficient data have been accumulated.

At some day, (it is to be hoped not far in the future) an additional source of information will be developed in the archives of The Connecticut Historical Society at Hartford, incorporated in 1825, and the custodian of many important papers. The collections of this Society are not at present in condition for reference. They are packed away in chests and drawers, and have not yet been bound. Three of the Quartermasters of the army of the American Revolution were from Connecticut, and their accounts are in possession of the Society. There are also a large number of company books; the Trumbull papers; the Wolcott papers; Jeremiah Wadsworth's papers; and the papers of Mix, Johnson, Silas Deane, and others. It is impossible to tell, at present, just what the Society does not have. The Society is in need of funds; and if the money could be supplied, a large quantity of valuable records could be placed in condition for examination. The Secretary, Frank B. Gay, could not, at present, undertake to search through them for records of service.

There are also records of undoubted value in the possession of The New Haven Colony Historical Society, which have never been utilized. They were not examined when the State's book was in preparation. It is the intention of the Adjutant General of the State, however, to have them carefully scrutinized before the issue of the proposed supplementary volume. The Society is now "in storage," awaiting the completion of its new building, and its records are therefore not at present accessible. Dwight F. Bowers is the Librarian.

Hinman's "Historical Collection from Official Records and Files of the part sustained by Connecticut during the War of the Revolution," is an important source of information.

The orderly books of Colonel Webb, the ancestor of our President General, are in existence and have lately come into Dr. Webb's possession. They contain many names.

NEW YORK.

New York has published a book, entitled "Archives of the State of New York, Part I." It was issued in 1887 under the direction of the Regents of the University. It is a large, handsome, and valuable volume. This work was compiled by Berthold Fernow, Esq., of Kingston, N. Y., as editor, who exhausted every available source of information, including muster rolls, minutes of committees of safety, pension records, and so on. More than 40,000 names are given, and the book is well indexed. Copies may be obtained from the State Library at Albany, N. Y., for \$5 each. It is suggested that it would be well for each State Society to supply itself with a copy of this volume.

The New York book, like the others, is not, however, entirely complete. Many rolls are missing. Possibly these can in future be supplied. There are a

number of muster rolls of companies of the New York Continental Line in private hands; and undoubtedly there are other records whose existence has not been reported. For instance, the original Journal of the Committee of Safety of Albany County, for two years, which is full of names, is in my own possession, having lain hidden in my father's library at Auburn, New York, until his death, last fall. The Ulster County Committee of Safety Journals are still missing; they are not at Kingston; they may possibly be in private hands, but no knowledge as to where they can be found is in the possession of the Regents of the University. There is need of a fresh search for additional records of the Revolution in New York State, and the publication of a supplementary volume.

There are some other sources of information in New York State. The private library of the late Gordon L. Ford, 97 Clark Street, Brooklyn, now owned by his sons, and in the immediate care of Mr. Paul L. Ford, is probably the most valuable collection of Americana in existence in private hands. It contains histories, journals of committees of safety, letters and papers, without number.

The New York Historical Society at 170 Second Avenue, New York City, also contains a large amount of material, which is at the service of those who call in person. The Society does not undertake to make searches. And it ought to be mentioned that their experience is that, as a rule, the State archives have to be resorted to, to verify questions of service.

The Long Island Historical Society, Brooklyn, N. Y., has no manuscripts or rolls, but does have an excellent library and a large collection of original letters of Washington, Henry, Laurens, Gates, Steuben, Lee and others.

The Oneida Historical Society, Utica, N. Y., Gen. Charles W. Darling, Corresponding Secretary, is the custodian of many documents, relics, manuscripts, etc., relating to the Mohawk Valley and Northern New York.

NEW JERSEY.

New Jersey has published an admirable volume, showing the names, regiments, rank, and services of the men of her State in the American Revolution. This work is the production of William S. Stryker, Adjutant General of the State, who has, now for fully 25 years, prosecuted a diligent inquiry in every direction for the names and commands of all Jersey men who served in the struggle of '76. He believes that there are no records of the services of Jersey men in the Revolution anywhere in the State, not now in his control; and he has possession of certified copies of every roll and document, the originals of which are not in his possession. By this I do not mean that the book is entirely complete. It is not. Since its publication, Gen. Stryker has obtained the names of many more officers and men, and he has made a record of them all upon the pages of an inter-leaved copy of the book. He is, and always has been, willing to search for the proof of service of any New Jersey man in the Revolution, and to give a certificate of the record, as authorized by law. No fee is charged. Indeed, no fee can be received under any circumstances. Applications should be addressed to Gen. William S. Stryker, Adjutant General, Trenton, N. J.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Pennsylvania has already published 5 volumes relating to service in the American Revolution, and has one more in preparation. Volume I of the

second series of the State archives contains naval records of the Revolution. Volumes 10 and 11 embrace the men of the Pennsylvania Line, so far as they can be ascertained from Depreciation, Donation and Pension rolls. Volumes 13 and 14 contain lists of Associations and Militia; the reprint of these latter will show who were in actual service. Volume 15, now in compilation, will present a variety of rolls and records, gathered by the editor, Mr. William H. Egle, State Librarian, from many sources, published and documentary. Mr. Egle will cheerfully direct searches to be made, for the benefit of descendants of Pennsylvania soldiers in the Revolution. The clerk, who performs the labor, will expect a small remuneration for his services.

Some difficulty is experienced in searching the Pennsylvania books, from the fact that they are not fully indexed. It would be of immense service to have an index of them printed.

There are probably a number of documents in the possession of the "Historical Society of Pennsylvania," 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, which will supply names in addition to those published in the State volume. The Society's collection is very full and complete, and includes many unpublished documents and papers. The Librarian, John W. Jordan, will be pleased to permit examinations by those interested, but cannot undertake to do the work personally.

DELAWARE.

There are no records of service in Delaware, manuscript or otherwise, of which any information can be obtained. The State Government knows of none.

MARYLAND.

Lieut. James C. Cresap, U. S. N., Secretary General of the S. A. R., has supplied the following information, relative to Maryland. The sources of information there are:

1. List of the officers and soldiers of the Revolution who were entitled to grants of land, a printed volume by John M. Brewer and Lewis Mayer, now out of print. There is one copy in the Land Office, Annapolis, Md.
2. Three volumes of manuscript muster rolls of Maryland troops. Imperfect. Now at the Land Office, Annapolis.
3. The Scharf Library, now in possession of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., which contains more than 100 manuscript muster rolls, books and papers, relating to service in the American Revolution. The University proposes to publish a history of the Maryland Line from the data contained in this collection.
4. A valuable collection of documents, papers and books has been gathered by the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, to which additions are continually being made. The Society has printed a catalogue of these papers. They include: "Scharf's History of Maryland," Vol. 3 of which gives the names of many officers and privates, Committees of Safety, etc., of Maryland; "McSherry's History of Maryland," which contains various lists of officers of the Maryland Line; "Council of Safety, Correspondence, 1775 to 1777;" a volume of the "Archives of Maryland;" various County Histories, etc.
5. George N. Mackenzie, Registrar of the Maryland S. A. R., 225 St. Paul

Street, Baltimore, and Nicholas Brewer, Genealogist, a member of the Maryland S. A. R., Annapolis, Md., have full facilities for research and will examine the records, in behalf of the descendants of Maryland Men, for a moderate compensation.

6. A volume of Maryland Archives, recently published, contains the appointments and proceedings of the Council of Safety.

VIRGINIA.

R. A. Brock, Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, has been kind enough to report that the chief source of information of service of Virginia soldiers in the American Revolution is the list, in the State archives, of those who received bounty lands at the close of the war. The list is unsatisfactory as to details of length of service, rank and regiments. The Society has in addition many orderly books, journals and miscellaneous records. Mr. Brooks states that he has, for many years, kept a set of memorandum books, in which he has compiled a variety of curious information of a genealogical character. Until recently he never made any charge for a search of these records; but the formation of Societies of Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution has made such extensive demands upon his time, that he must now ask for this work from \$1 to \$5, according to time consumed. He has access to all the sources of information. He says that the inquiries of the Daughters are particularly trying.

Dr. George Brown Goode, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., has a large library of books relating to the American Revolution, the State of Virginia in particular. His assistant, Mr. A. Howard Clark, has been able to supply proof of eligibility to membership in the S. A. R. therefrom in many cases.

It is not generally known that, at the War Department in Washington, there are a great number of volumes of manuscript rolls of Virginia troops in the Revolution. Could these volumes be printed, or made accessible, they would greatly aid our Societies in Virginia, the South and the West to increase their membership.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

Draper's "King's Mountain and its Heroes," published at Cincinnati, in 1881, gives many names of Southern soldiers.

A source of information of great importance to the Societies in the South is now to be found in the State of Wisconsin. The Historical Society of Madison, Wis., has lately received, by bequest, the Draper collection of diaries and documents, relating to the War of the Revolution in the South. There is a rich store of material in these papers, but they come to the Society in such chaotic condition that, at present, little can be said as to their contents. Undoubtedly, however, when finally arranged and the names indexed, they will supply the proof of eligibility to membership in the S. A. R. to many persons.

The pension files at Washington and Archives of the State and Pension Departments contain the names of thousands of Southern soldiers.

GEORGIA.

The State Government has little in the way of records of service in the Revolution. In the Adjutant General's office at Atlanta, however, there are manu-

script rolls of seven companies of militia, and the names and rank of 129 officers. There is nothing else on file in the State offices, so far as known. No charge is made for supplying information.

Another source to which application can be made is the Georgia Historical Society, headquarters at Savannah. The Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Ellen R. Howard, has access, not only to the books owned by the Society, but also to a number of rolls, records, and documents owned by private citizens. She will make examinations in return for small charge, based on the time consumed.

WESTERN STATES.

I might add that very few of the Western States possess any records of their own of the American Revolution, except in the form of volumes printed in the Eastern States.

Inquiries addressed to the State Governments and leading Historical Societies, fail to elicit any information of value in this respect, except in the case of the Draper collection in Wisconsin, already referred to.

Western men are necessarily compelled to seek for proof of service in the East and at Washington. Each one of these Societies would be greatly benefited by possession of such official records, as have been printed in the original thirteen States.

RECORDS AT WASHINGTON.

At the Executive Departments in Washington, there is a great undeveloped mine of most valuable material. I have had a thorough examination made at my own expense. While a portion of the records of the American Revolution were burned at Washington in 1800, and again in 1814, much was saved from the general ruin, and more has been accumulated since, especially at the Pension office. It is of the utmost importance that all the records at Washington shall be collected from the several departments within the care of one custodian, and shall be arranged and indexed. A bill providing for this was introduced in the United States Senate, early in the present session, and was passed by that body on March 10th. It now awaits action in the House. *The bill provides that the records shall be collected and transferred to the War Department, and there assorted and indexed. This work will be of immense service to our Societies. It will enable some States, which have not yet done so, to publish books of their own, and other States to issue supplementary volumes. And it will supply proof of eligibility to membership in the S. A. R. to thousands of gentlemen in every part of the country, who are anxious to join our Societies.

A brief summary of the material, which exists at Washington, may be of interest.

There are no records of the American Revolution now at the Navy and War Departments. There were some formerly, but they were all sent, long ago, to the Department of State.

At the State Department there are about 300 volumes of manuscript rolls, folio size, most of them about 2 inches thick. These books include the famous collection called "the Washington papers," which were purchased from the heirs of Wash-

* The bill has since been passed by Congress and is now a law.



ington; the journals of the Continental Congress; and the papers of Gen. Greene, John Paul Jones and others. An index has never been made of the names in this collection, but one is now in preparation, (although at the present rate of progress, it will take 25 years to do the work). Many lists of the personnel of the army are scattered through these papers. The information is all, in fact, so scattered through these volumes, that it requires much time to make a search. Information is always cheerfully given by the Department, if it can be found. The officer in charge asks that, in all cases, where possible, the names of the regiment in which the soldier served and of his commanding officer shall be given, in order to facilitate a search. As the work must be done out of regular office hours, a small fee is charged.

One of the books at the State Department is entitled "Records of the Revolution, by W. T. R. Lassell, 1858." It is a compilation of the pension laws, and contains long lists of soldiers entitled to pensions and land claims, including the complete organization of many companies and batteries.

It is in the Pension office, however, that are found the records, most valuable to the S. A. R. While a large proportion of the rolls, which were originally filed in the Pension Office, were destroyed by burning, as before stated, copies of many of them have been collected since from the several States, and much new material has been accumulated. Enlistment records, company returns, vouchers for military expenditures, etc., have been gathered together, and these documents have been placed in nearly 200 heavily bound books, now old and time stained, which are stored in a special room in the Pension Office. These records are not by any means complete. Many duplicate rolls which were burned were never supplied. Others have apparently been lost, in the various removals of the office. But the material on hand is, nevertheless, exceedingly valuable.

An examination of these volumes has been made, expressly for this report, and I can explain in substance what they contain. Without now going into details, let me say that there are 10 volumes of rolls and documents relating to New Hampshire troops; a few scattering facts about Vermont; 10 volumes of Massachusetts rolls, etc.; nearly 50 volumes relating to Connecticut troops; 10 relating to New York troops; 20 of New Jersey rolls; more than 40 of Virginia records and rolls; and 6 or 8 of North and South Carolina documents. There are in addition many volumes of commissariat accounts; rolls of artificers, dragoons, and other regiments; orderly books, etc., etc.

The office of the Registrar of the Treasury possesses 4 volumes, entitled "Register of the Certificates issued by John Pierce, Esq., Pay-Master General and Commissioner of Army Accounts." They were printed in 1786, and contain 70,000 names. The names and amount of each certificate are given, but without any memorandum as to command or State. An index was, however, made up many years ago, and still exists in manuscript, considerably worn. The number of names is 93,843. This valuable record was found, a number of years ago, in a waste-paper basket, about to be carted away and sold for paper stock.

The records of Pensions granted are of great and precise value. In all there were 62,069 Pensioners of the American Revolution—37,918 of them soldiers and sailors, 24,151 of them widows. Lists of Pensioners were printed by authority of Congress in 1820, 1835 and 1883, and these books are in possession of the Pension Office. They give the States in which the Pensioners then resided, and not the